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TITLE: Covalent attachment of specific binding members to a solid phase with two bifunctional reagents and a dithio compound

Detailed Description Text (2):

The present invention provides novel methods for the covalent linkage of the specific binding member and the solid phase, such as the immobilization of a protein on a solid phase for use in an immunoassay. The method can be used to covalently crosslink two amino-containing components. These components include, but are not limited to, antibodies, enzymes, peptides, cells, haptens, small molecules, solid phases, liposomes, and polymers. The general methodology of the present invention involves the modification of the specific binding member and/or the solid phase to incorporate thiol-reactive functional groups. The activated specific binding member is then allowed to react with the thiolated solid phase to produce the covalent linkage. The specific methodologies of the present invention differ in the means used to introduce the thiol groups to the solid phase. In another aspect of the present invention, both the solid phase and the specific binding member can be individually modified to include extended length heterobifunctional coupling agents, which in turn can be crosslinked through a dithiol compound.